

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A milking machine, comprising:

at least a first teat cup having a teat cup shell and a teat cup liner, said teat cup liner includes a lower end connected to a milking vacuum source for drawing milk from a milking animal, and a top end forming a space and an teat entrance in which a teat of the milking animal is to be introduced, said teat cup liner further includes an inlet to said space connected to a vacuum source,

wherein a control device controls vacuum in said space in accordance to a milking criteria of said milking animal, and

said milking machine includes a vacuum difference measuring device, provided to measure a vacuum difference between the lower end of said teat cup liner and said space, and the milking machine ~~provided to adjust a~~ adjusts the vacuum ~~[[level]]~~ in said space during milking according to at least said measured vacuum difference.

14. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, further comprising

an animal identification device provided to detect an identity of the milking animal and relate said identity to at least one milking criteria.

15. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein said vacuum in said space is dynamically varied during a milking process depending upon a momentary milk flow.
16. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein said milking criteria is an expected time to finish milking of a particular udder quarter being milked.
17. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein said milking criteria is an expected milk yield.
18. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein said milking machine includes one teat cup for each udder quarter to be milked, and
said control device is provided to set the vacuum in said space in each teat cup so that all udder quarters finish milking simultaneously.
19. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein said vacuum in said space is set at start of milking.
20. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein said vacuum in said space is set dynamically during milking.
21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein said vacuum in said space is set to a first value during a first part of said milking and to a second value during a second part of said milking.

23. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein said vacuum in said space is set so that an increased vacuum difference is achieved between said space and said teat cup liner lower end when the milking animal has a higher milk flow than a milk flow of an average milking animal.

24. (Previously Presented) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein said teat cup shell or teat cup liner includes a sensor for sensing vacuum levels in said space.

25. (Currently Amended) A milking machine, comprising:

at least a first teat cup having a teat cup shell and a teat cup liner, said teat cup liner includes a lower end connected to a milking vacuum source for drawing milk from a milking animal, and a top end forming a space and an teat entrance in which a teat of the milking animal is to be introduced, said teat cup liner further includes an inlet to said space connected to a vacuum source,

wherein a control device controls vacuum in said space and lower end of said teat cup liner in accordance to a milking criteria of said milking animal, and

said vacuum in said space is dynamically varied during a milking process depending upon a momentary milk flow.

26. (Currently Amended) A milking machine₁ comprising:

at least a first teat cup having a teat cup shell and a teat cup liner, said teat cup liner includes a lower end connected to a milking vacuum source for drawing milk from a milking animal, and a top end forming a space and an teat entrance in which a teat of the milking animal is to be introduced, said teat cup liner further includes an inlet to said space connected to a vacuum source,

wherein a control device controls vacuum in said space and lower end of said teat cup liner in accordance to a milking criteria of said milking animal, and

said milking criteria is an expected time to finish milking of a particular udder quarter being milked.

27. (Currently Amended) A milking machine₁ comprising:

at least one teat cup for each udder quarter to be milked having a teat cup shell and a teat cup liner, said teat cup liner includes a lower end connected to a milking vacuum source for drawing milk from a milking animal, and a top end forming a space and an teat entrance in which a teat of the milking animal is to be introduced, said teat cup liner further includes an inlet to said space connected to a vacuum source,

wherein a control device controls vacuum in said space and lower end of said teat cup liner in accordance to a milking criteria of said milking animal, and

said control device is provided to set the vacuum in said space in each teat cup so that all udder quarters finish milking simultaneously.